

## The Sun

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## Easter.

The celebration of this Christian festival of Easter, or of the Resurrection of Jesus, once confined to the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches, now extends to practically every Christian denomination, though formerly, by some of them at least, it was looked upon as a semi-pagan superstition and abominable.

This contemporary extension of the observance of Easter has been coincident with a growing indifference of the outside Churches to many of the distinctive features of their doctrinal system, of which the current agitation in the Presbyterian Church for the revision of the Westminster Confession is a notable symptom. Having lost rigidity of doctrinal conviction, they are the more disposed to the gratification of religious sentiment purely in devotional services. Incidentally there has been developed a single regard for the simple teachings and the example of the personality of Jesus. Dr. HILLIS, for instance, expressed this tendency when he said substantially that Christ's words and actions on earth are more to him than the doctrines of theology, and Dr. LYMAN ARBUTHNOT, who brushes away the old orthodox views of the Bible so completely as the chaff of superstition, would save himself from the accusation of downright infidelity, and from consequent expulsion from the ranks of Christians, by extolling likewise the personal character of Jesus. That is, in this new departure the Teacher is honored solely, and not at all the system elaborated by PAUL from the teachings of CHRIST.

Accordingly we hear now from such quarters more of Jesus than we do of theology and systems of doctrine; but when we go to the foundation of their preaching we find that it is ethical and not religious. Their admiration is of the sublimity of the moral example of Jesus, and in kind it does not vary essentially from the Chinaman's regard for the precepts and personal character of CONFUCIUS. It does not involve necessarily any faith in Christ as a Divine Being, but is entirely consistent with the Unitarian conception of Jesus as simply the highest expression of that divine humanity which is the brightest and proudest destiny of all souls. This contemporary tendency to the exaltation of Jesus as a mere teacher and exemplar, of which we are speaking, is therefore essentially and distinctively Unitarian. It goes frequently with rejection of the miracles of Scripture, without which, of course, there is no support for the dogmas of the Incarnation and the Resurrection.

It also has in it the germ of a consequence, as we have before pointed out, which may be radically destructive of the very veneration it assumes. By treating Jesus simply as an ethical teacher it opens up his social and other doctrine to criticism on its merits purely, for it deprives him of all title to Divine authority and hence to religious faith and worship. The Rev. Mr. SHELTON belongs, unconsciously, to this school. He holds up to men the ethical example of Christ and he would follow exactly "In His Steps," as of course he could not assume to do if he looked on Jesus as a Being of a Divine perfection impossible to humanity.

What would be the result of such exact, practical imitation of the conduct of Jesus and such precise obedience to his ethical commands? Is a question men will be sure to ask. It would, unquestionably, involve a radical change in all conduct and would revolutionize civilization. It would produce a social transformation more complete than that desired by the most extreme Socialists. Incidentally such an attempt, if successful, would be subversive of the whole social organization and of all existing human institutions, the Church among the rest. Meantime there would arise a discussion of the soundness of the Christian philosophy, and the character of it would be new to the world since the time Christianity first provoked, as the most pestilent communism, the violent opposition of pagan Rome, tolerant as Rome was of more differences of religion.

This modern effort to separate Christ from the system of Christian theology, built up by the Church on His teachings and from faith in His Divinity and miraculous Incarnation, and to view Him as an ethical teacher simply, is therefore distinctly irreligious, as Christian theology regards religion. It is as possible to the downright infidel, the voracious agnostic, as it is to the man who imagines that in making it he is demonstrating most convincingly that he is a veritable Christian believer. It deprives this festival of Easter of its whole significance, for it does not imply, nor does it require faith in the Resurrection or in any miraculous and supernatural quality pertaining to Jesus.

## The Consular Reports.

Mr. GEORGE F. PARKER, for some time United States Consul at Birmingham, England, says in the *Atlantic Monthly* for April that our Government publication called "Consular Reports" threatens to become "an intolerable nuisance" and that in the twenty-two years of its existence "it would be difficult to recall one report of really undoubted economic value." Mr. PARKER indulges in other misrepresentations of the reports, such as that no one goes to them for information about the matters to which they relate, for there are better sources.

The truth is that any one who has the "Consular Reports" in his library has a publication that is well worth keeping, for it contains a vast amount of authoritative information on commercial geography, commerce and the materials that enter into trade, all well indexed and easily accessible. The "Consular Reports" has been tested in many ways that demonstrate its helpfulness and high standard of accuracy. It contains trustworthy facts of value to merchants and manufacturers, collected abroad at small expense to our Government and relating to the commercial and economic conditions in countries with which we are competing in foreign trade, or in the newer markets which we are beginning to enter. It contains, for instance, more

accurate data for the compilation of maps showing the distribution of products and industries in the Latin American republics than any other publication. The publication may be greatly improved by more rigorous editing that shall reject contributions of little worth and eliminate as far as possible all statements of doubtful authenticity. There are few writings, however, relating to statistical and economic topics that are not marred by such blunders. The fact has been widely recognized and published in Great Britain and Germany that our consular reports are of far more practical value to merchants and manufacturers than the reports which their own Consuls supply. There is a large and growing demand for the publication among the business classes whom it endeavors to assist. It is quoted, not only in the daily press, but also in special trade and scientific journals, and thus all the best information it contains is widely circulated in this country. No other publication gives our people so much information about the resources of foreign lands, their commercial necessities and their business and industrial methods.

## The New York University.

It is well known that, of recent years, the New York University has undergone remarkable expansion and is beginning to fulfill the comprehensive aims which were formulated by its founders. This institution now includes a college proper and a school of applied science on University Heights, a graduate school, a law school and a school of pedagogy on Washington Square; a medical school on First Avenue and East Twenty-sixth street and a veterinary college on West Fifty-fourth street. The bulk of the collection of books known as the University Library is placed on University Heights, but there are two branches at Washington Square. The members of the teaching staff now number 180, and the students, 1,581, not including "auditors," or "non-matriculants," of whom there are more than 700 in attendance upon the various schools of the university.

The college proper is devoted to arts and to pure science; its graduates receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts, of Philosophy or of Science. Candidates for admission to this department may present themselves for examination in one of three categories which correspond to the three sections of the freshman class. The categories differ mainly in this respect, that, in the first, both Latin and Greek must be offered, as well as English, the history of the United States, arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry and physics; in the second an applicant must offer Latin or Greek, and German or French, together with the other requirements just enumerated; in the third category one need not present either of the classical languages, but one must be duly prepared in both German and French, and in addition to the other requirements one must offer solid geometry and trigonometry. Also admitted to the freshman class a student must enter that section of the class for which he has passed the examination. All the studies in each section are prescribed. Section A requires both Greek and Latin. Section B substitutes for Greek either German or French. Section C supersedes both the ancient languages by German and French and, in addition, requires subjects introductory to the scientific curricula. At the beginning of the sophomore year the student must enter one of nine parallel groups arranged for the last three years of undergraduate study. These are numbered and named as follows: First, classical; second, modern languages; third, Semitic; fourth, English-classical; fifth, historical-political; sixth, philosophical-historical; seventh, natural science; eighth, exact science; ninth, medical preparatory. A student who has completed section A of the freshman studies becomes a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts upon completion of group I, II, III, IV, V, or VI; or for the degree of Bachelor of Science upon satisfactory completion of group VII, VIII, or IX, provided he has taken the drawing and chemistry required in section C of the freshman year. A student who has completed section B of the freshman studies becomes a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science upon completion of group II, V, or VI; or for the degree of Bachelor of Science upon completion of group VII, VIII, or IX. In other words, at the New York University a young man cannot obtain an A. B. degree without proving his possession of a knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages and literature.

On the other hand, he can secure the degree of Bachelor of Science, or even of Bachelor of Philosophy, without any knowledge of either of those languages. After the academic year 1899-1900 the work done at University Heights in applied science will be performed under the "University School of Applied Science." The student completing a course will receive the degree of Bachelor of Science in civil engineering, in mechanical engineering or in applied chemistry. After the approval of the prescribed thesis the Bachelor of Science in civil engineering will receive the degree of Civil Engineer, while the Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering will receive that of Mechanical Engineer. Applicants for admission to the school of applied science are examined in French, German, English, the history of the United States and of England, arithmetic, algebra, plane and solid geometry, plane trigonometry and physics. There are three courses, according as a student aims at proficiency in civil engineering, in mechanical engineering or in chemical engineering. In the autumn of the current year, an additional course will be opened, that, namely, of industrial chemistry. The graduate school of the New York University includes all courses of instruction and examinations offered by candidates for the degree of Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science. In order to be eligible to any one of these degrees the candidates must have received the degree of Bachelor from a college in good standing, and admission to examinations will be granted only to those who have been resident students, pursuing courses of at least one year. We should add that the degree of Master is given to none save Bachelors of at least two years' standing, and the degree of Doctor to none save Bachelors of at least three years' standing.

We pass to the law and medical schools of the university. To the law school only those are admitted who are graduates of colleges in good standing; or who present the academic diploma of the Regents of the State of New York, or a certificate acceptable to said Regents in lieu thereof; or, lastly, those who pass the examinations for entrance to the sophomore class in the academic department of the university. The degree of Bachelor of Laws is conferred upon candidates who pursue the required three years' course and pass the necessary examination. The degree of Master of Laws is conferred upon candidates who, in addition, complete the prescribed courses of graduate studies, which include Roman law, advanced constitutional law and international law, in addition to other subjects. We note, in the next place, that for young men who purpose, before the beginning of the study of medicine, to complete a regular college course, the New York University college of arts and science at University Heights has made the following provision, to wit: The student, after completing his freshman year in the college proper, may take therein the "medical preparatory course," which will qualify him to enter most advantageously the college of medicine. After pursuing this course throughout the sophomore and junior years he may elect to take in place of the senior year at University Heights the first year in the medical college at First Avenue and East Twenty-sixth street, provided he shall give three hours a week to college work in arts and science outside of medicine. This plan shortens the combined college and medical courses from eight years to seven years. No entrance examinations are conducted at this medical school, but all students who matriculate with the intention of becoming candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must conform to the rules and regulations of the New York State Board of Regents, which were established by laws of the State of New York to take effect March 21, 1890, and which will be found set forth on pages 353, 355 of the catalogue before us.

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